

Relations at the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans serving our great City over the past thirty-three years. His stellar work benefited directors Harold J. Gorman, Marcia A. St. Martin, Cedric Grant and Ghassan Karban, assuring the needs of their customers.

Under his leadership, the Sewerage and Water Board's Water Education Program for public and parochial schools in the City of New Orleans met EPA requirements for public information and community education, thereby providing compliance with Consent Decree requirements for that component until recent years.

During Mr. Jackson's tenure at the Board, they successfully sponsored the Water Help Run/Walk-a-thon from 1992 to 1996 to help support the Water Help Program for elderly and handicapped in our community.

And in the days following Hurricane Katrina, Robert B. Jackson was instrumental in securing emergency fuel, satellite phones, supplies and equipment to help stabilize water operations during the emergency. Then, by the second week of September 2005, a temporary headquarters with forty-four offices was secured, furnished and operational in order to provide continuity of service for displaced customers and employees needing to connect with the Board.

There are only a few employees who can credit their career to include entrusted service under five Mayors—Sidney J. Barthelemy, Marc H. Morial, C. Ray Nagin, Mitchell Landrieu and LaToya Cantrell.

The entire New Orleans community is grateful to Mr. Jackson for his dedicated service, and I want to express my sincere congratulations to him ahead of his well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING DR. BRENDA LEWIS

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Brenda Lewis for her contributions to the Kern High School District and congratulate her on her retirement.

Dr. Lewis moved to Bakersfield, California, in August of 1988. She has spent the last 33 years working for the Kern High School District. Her illustrious career consisted of serving her community as a teacher, coach, mentor, and administrator. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Mediburu Magic Foundation and No Sister Left Behind and is a member of the Greater Harvest Christian Center Church where she serves as the president of the Deaconess Board.

Dr. Lewis has received several awards and recognitions for her excellent work. She received the CSUB Athletic Director's Appreciation Award, the Josephine Triplett Education & Leadership Award, the California Association of African American Superintendents & Administrators Award for Dedication & Devotion to Helping Students Achieve Excellence in Education, the MLK Committee's Sacrifices from the Heart Award, the Kern County Black Chamber of Commerce Certificate of Recognition, and was the Keynote Speaker for the 2020 Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast and Grand Marshal for the Bakersfield Black American History Parade.

Dr. Lewis was the first African American and the first woman in the history of the Kern High School District to serve as Assistant/Associate Superintendent. These are just two of her many great accomplishments from her time in the Kern High School District.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Dr. Brenda Lewis for her contributions to the Kern County community and wishing her the best in retirement.

RECOGNIZING QUEEN ELIZABETH II

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am grateful to recognize Queen Elizabeth's 70th year on the British throne. She has been Great Britain's head of state through 14 different American Presidents, meeting with 13 of them. I include in the RECORD, an article from The Washington Times of February 7, 2022 by Danica Kirka, celebrating Queen Elizabeth's time on the throne. I appreciate Ambassador Karen Pierce for her service in Washington.

I particularly appreciate the Queen's service as I am a native of Charleston, South Carolina, which is the most British city in North America founded by British settlers in 1670. As Co-Chairman of the U.K. Caucus, I was grateful to have hosted the Minister for the Armed Forces, James Heapey, of the U.K. Parliament, at the Capitol Hill Club last week for dinner, as we remain united in supporting the independence of Ukraine.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II MARKS 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF HER RULE

LONDON.—As the United Kingdom marked the 70th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's rule on Sunday, the queen looked to the future of the monarchy.

In remarks delivered in time for Sunday morning's front pages, the queen expressed a "sincere wish" that Prince Charles' wife, Camilla, should be known as "Queen Consort" when her son succeeds her as expected. With those words the monarch sought to answer once and for all questions about the status of Camilla, who was initially shunned by fans of the late Princess Diana, Charles' first wife.

"The queen is such a realist and, you know, she's got a business to run," historian Robert Lacey said. "Well, they call it 'The Firm,' don't they? And this really brings Camilla into the firm properly now and for the future."

It took years for many in Britain to forgive Charles, whose admitted infidelity and long-time links to Camilla torpedoed his marriage to Diana. The popular, glamorous princess died in a Paris car crash in 1997, five years after the couple separated in a messy public split. But the public mood has softened since Charles married Camilla Parker Bowles in 2005.

Now known as the Duchess of Cornwall, the 74-year-old Camilla has taken on roles at more than 100 charities, focusing on a wide range of issues including promoting literacy, supporting victims of domestic violence and helping the elderly.

Her down-to-earth style and sense of humor eventually won over many Britons. Her warmth softened Charles' stuffy image

and made him appear more approachable, if not happier, as he cut ribbons, unveiled plaques and waited for his chance to reign.

Charles, 73, has long made it clear that he wants Camilla to be known as queen when he ultimately succeeds his mother on the throne. In his own message congratulating the queen on her long years of service, Charles thanked his mother for her support.

"We are deeply conscious of the honour represented by my mother's wish," they said. "As we have sought together to serve and support Her Majesty and the people of our communities, my darling wife has been my own steadfast support throughout."

The queen's comments are remarkable in that they brought back memories of one of the lowest moments of her 70 years on the throne. The royal family was widely criticized for its initial silence in the aftermath of Diana's death, with one national newspaper proclaiming "Your People Are Suffering. Speak to Us Ma'am."

In backing Charles and Camilla, the queen remembered the support she received from her husband, Prince Philip, who died last year after decades at her side, as well as the role her mother played as the wife of a king.

"I am fortunate to have had the steadfast and loving support of my family. I was blessed that, in Prince Philip, I had a partner willing to carry out the role of consort and unselfishly make the sacrifices that go with it," she wrote. "It is a role I saw my own mother perform during my father's reign."

"And when, in the fullness of time, my son Charles becomes King, I know you will give him and his wife Camilla the same support that you have given me."

But for now, the queen remains at work.

On Sunday, Buckingham Palace released a photo of the monarch sitting in front of her official red dispatch box with government papers spread out before her.

The 95-year-old monarch is expected to spend the day at Sandringham, the country estate in Norfolk where her father, King George VI, died suddenly on Feb. 6, 1952, making her queen.

"It is a sad day and one that reminds her of the close relationship she had with him," said Lacey, the historical consultant to the Netflix series "The Crown."

"(Sunday) is a day when, by tradition, she likes to go back to Sandringham, the country roots of the family," he told The Associated Press. "He liked to consider himself the Squire of Sandringham, the King of Britain, but he'd go out and walk the fields, shoot the game. That's what she remembers."

While Sunday's anniversary is expected to be low-key, public celebrations of the monarch's platinum jubilee are scheduled for June, when the weather improves. The festivities will include a military parade, neighborhood parties and a competition to create a new dessert—a mini extravaganza that will take place over a special four-day weekend June 2–5.

The celebrations are meant to recognize the woman who became a symbol of stability for the U.K. as it navigated an age of uncertainty.

Britain's longest-serving monarch, the only sovereign most Britons have ever known, she has been a constant presence as Britain navigated the end of empire, the swinging '60s, the labor strife of the 1980s, international terrorism, Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic.

In her message, the queen promised to keep working for the U.K. and the Commonwealth.

"As we mark this anniversary, it gives me pleasure to renew to you the pledge I gave in 1947 that my life will always be devoted to your service," she wrote.